

We claim:

1. Use of dichloromethane extract of *Decalepis-hamiltonii* having as an anti-oxidant, wherein the said extract is mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or an edible item.
- 5 2. A use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anti-oxidant property is preferably free radical scavenging activity.
3. A use as claimed in claim 2, wherein free radical scavenging activity is hydroxyl radical scavenging activity.
4. A use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the extract is obtained from tuberous root.
- 10 5. A use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anti-oxidant activity is in the range of 4-47%.
6. A use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the extract is applied in the range of 100 to 1000 ppm.
7. A use as claimed in claim 4, wherein the extract is obtained from medulla of tubers and peel of tubers.
- 15 8. A use as claimed in claim 7, wherein the anti-oxidant activity of extract obtained from medulla is in the range of 30 to 45% when applied in a concentration range of 500 to 1000 ppm.
9. A use as claimed in claim 7, wherein the anti-radical activity of extract obtained from medulla is in the range of 35 to 46% when applied in a concentration range of 500 to 1000 ppm.
- 20 10. A use as claimed in claim 7, wherein the hydroxyl scavenging activity of extract obtained from medulla is in the range of 36 to 47% when applied in a concentration range of 100 to 200 ppm.

11. A use as claimed in claim 7, wherein the anti-oxidant activity of extract obtained from peel is in the range of 36 to 47%-when-applied-in a concentration range of 500 to 1000 ppm.
12. A use as claimed in claim 7, wherein the anti-radical activity of extract obtained from peel is in the range of 32 to 48% when applied in a concentration range of 500 to 1000 ppm.
13. A use as claimed in claim 7, wherein the hydroxyl scavenging activity of extract obtained from medulla is in the range of 43 to 49% when applied in a concentration range of 100 to 200 ppm.
14. An anti-oxidant composition comprising an effective amount of dichloromethane extract obtained from tuberous roots of *Decalepis hamiltonii* Wight & Arn optionally along with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.
15. Process for the preparation of antioxidant activity rich extracts of tuberous roots of *Decalepis hamiltonii* Wight & Arn., said process comprising the steps:
- a) extracting the tuberous roots of *Decalepis hamiltonii* with the dichloromethane to obtain a primary extract, and
 - b) concentrating the primary extract obtained from step (a) to obtain the anti-oxidant activity rich extract.
16. A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein in step (a) the tuberous roots are surface sterilized by washing with 70% alcohol.
17. A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein in step (a) the ratio of dichloromethane to tuberous root is about 2:1 by wt.
18. A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the dichloromethane extract obtained from tuberous roots of *Decalepis hamiltonii* as an anti-oxidant having anti-oxidant activity in the range of 4-47%.

19. A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the anti-oxidant property is preferably free radical scavenging activity.
20. A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the free radical scavenging activity is hydroxyl radical scavenging activity.
- 5 21. A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the extract is obtained from medulla of tubers and peel of tubers.
22. A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the anti-oxidant activity of extract obtained from medulla is in the range of 30 to 45% when applied in a concentration range of 500 to 1000 ppm.
- 10 23. A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the anti-radical activity of extract obtained from medulla is in the range of 35 to 46% when applied in a concentration range of 500 to 1000 ppm.
24. A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the hydroxyl scavenging activity of extract obtained from medulla is in the range of 36 to 47% when applied in a concentration range of 100 to 200 ppm.
- 15 25. A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the anti-oxidant activity of extract obtained from peel is in the range of 36 to 47% when applied in a concentration range of 500 to 1000 ppm.
26. A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the anti-radical activity of extract obtained from peel is in the range of 32 to 48% when applied in a concentration range of 500 to 1000 ppm.
- 20 27. A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the hydroxyl scavenging activity of extract obtained from medulla is in the range of 43 to 49% when applied in a concentration range of 100 to 200 ppm.